

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

May 27, 2014

Proclaim May 26-30, 2014 as Mediation Week

The California State Legislature adopted the Dispute Resolution Programs Act of 1986 which established a uniform system of providing grants to local public and private not-for-profit programs as an alternative to formal court proceedings. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, on December 23, 1986, approved participation in the Dispute Resolution Programs Act (DRPA) as a better way to provide residents, businesses, and organizations with alternatives to the formal court system for resolving disputes. Last year, the eight non-profit organizations and five public entities funded by Los Angeles County's DRPA program assisted more than 18,000 residents, businesses, and organizations.

The Dispute Resolution Program (DRP) provides County residents with an opportunity to resolve disputes without going to court. Trained volunteers help those with disputes resolve their differences quickly, without the added cost of attorneys and court fees. The DRP is designed to respond to the needs of the County's court system, freeing up their case loads by an average of 9,000 cases per year. The estimated cost

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MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

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KNABE _____

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of a case in the Superior Court is \$4,090. With over 7,000 cases being resolved last year, the mediation process resulted in approximately \$28,630,000 in cost savings for the Courts in the County.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim May 26-30, 2014 as Mediation Week throughout Los Angeles County, and encourage County residents, businesses, and organizations, wherever feasible to utilize the process of mediation to resolve disputes.

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